<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-14 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9 have been amended for purposes of clarity. Claims 4 and 10 have been cancelled. Claims 12, 13 and 14 are have been added by this response. Support for the amendments to claims 1-3 and 7-9 can be found throughout the specification and more specifically on page 2 lines 19-32, page 3 lines 5-9 and Fig. 1. Support for the new claims 12-14 can be found throughout the specification and more specifically on page 5 lines 22-37, page 6 lines 9-12 and Fig. 2. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by these amendments and new claims.

Objections to the Specification

The specification is objected to for certain informalities. The specification has been amended to correct for typographical errors in accordance with the comments of the Examiner. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Objections to Claims 3 and 9

Claims 3 and 9 are objected to for certain informalities. Claims 3 and 9 have been amended to replace the word "being" with the word "is" in accordance with the suggestion of the Examiner. Therefore, in view of the amendments to claims 3 and 9 it is respectfully submitted that this objection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 4 under 35 USC § 112

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 4 has been cancelled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this objection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Depledge et al. (US Patent 5,899,988).

The present invention as claimed in claim 1 provides a method of processing multimedia data. First metadata is provided. The first metadata includes first metadata essence data representing information which is directly perceptible by a user and/or metadata link data which directly or indirectly points to further essence data. The first metadata essence data and or/said further essence data is transferred into new essence data. The new essence data is stored and provided to memory. Independent claim 7 contains similar features to those discussed above, and thus, all remarks presented herein also apply to claim 7.

Depledge describes a method and apparatus that provides bitmapped indexing with high granularity locking. A differential entry is generated when a change is made to a data table upon which a bitmapped index is based. The differential entry identifies a bit to be flipped in the corresponding bitmap index entry. When a bitmap is read from the bitmapped index, any corresponding differential entries are applied so that the resulting bitmap reflects the change made to the data table. (Abstract).

The Examiner asserts that "the customer number column (column 1 of table 100) represents metadata about customers" on page 4. The applicant respectfully disagrees. Metadata consists of metadata essence and/or metadata links. Metadata essence is directly perceptible by a user (page 1, line 17-19). Depledge is silent regarding the user perceptibility of the customer number. Furthermore, it is unclear what the metadata link should be. The link may be the keyword "Location", "Type" or a combination of the two. Thus, it is questionable if the customer number represents metadata. However, even if the customer number was to be considered metadata, Depledge neither discloses nor suggests "transferring said first metadata essence data and/or said further essence data being directly or indirectly pointed at

by said metadata link data into new essence data" as recited in claim 1 of the

present invention. Depledge merely discloses a solution for indexing existing

information through bitmap indexing. For example, Fig. 1 in Depledge contains two

columns named "Location" and "Type". Figs. 2A and 2B corresponds to the

"Location" and "Type" columns in Fig. 1, respectively. Fig. 2A contains the same

location information as that under the "Location" column in Fig. 1. Fig 2B contains

the same type information as that under the "Type" column in Fig. 1. The only

difference is in the formatting of the information. In contrast, the present claimed

invention transfers a first metadata essence and the further essence data into new

essence data. The new essence data created by the present claimed invention is a

combination of the first metadata essence and the further essence data (page 4, lines

30-33). Unlike Depledge, the present claimed invention does not merely reformat

existing data but instead creates a new essence data. Therefore, Depledge neither

discloses nor suggests "transferring said first metadata essence data and/or said

further essence data being directly or indirectly pointed at by said metadata link

data into new essence data" as recited in claim 1 of the present invention.

Independent claim 7 contains similar features to those discussed above, and thus, all

remarks presented herein apply to claim 7.

Claims 4 and 10 have been cancelled by this response. Therefore, in view of the

cancellation of claims 4 and 10, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection of claims

4 and 10 I now moot and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims, it is respectfully

submitted that Depledge does not anticipate the present claimed invention. As claims 2,

3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11 are dependent on claims 1 and 7, it is respectfully submitted that

these claims are also patentable for the same reasons as claims 1 and 7 discussed above.

It is thus further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be

withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-11 under 35 USC § 102(e)

Claims 1-11 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jain et al. (US Patent 6,567,980).

Jain describes a method and system for video cataloging with hyperlinked output. The video is catalogued according to predefined or user definable metadata. The metadata is used to index and then retrieve encoded video. Displayable frames contain hyperlinking between displayable data. (Abstract).

Jain neither discloses nor suggests "transferring said first metadata essence data and/or said further essence data being directly or indirectly pointed at by said metadata link data into new essence data" as recited in claim 1 of the present invention. Jain merely provides hyperlinks between different metadata. In contrast, the present claimed invention transfers a first metadata essence and the further essence data into new essence data. The new essence data is a conventional metadata essence comprising a combination of the first metadata essence and the further essence data and is not merely a hyperlink between metadata like in Jain. Unlike the new essence data in the present claimed invention, the hyperlinks in Jain are not suitable for cleaning a metadata database by reducing the amount of metadata, as is the purpose of the present invention. No metadata essence in Jain is converted to conventional essence. Therefore, Jain neither discloses nor suggests "transferring said first metadata essence data and/or said further essence data being directly or indirectly pointed at by said metadata link data into new essence data" as recited in claim 1 of the present invention. Independent claim 7 contains similar features to those discussed above, and thus, all remarks presented herein also apply to claim 7.

Claims 4 and 10 have been cancelled by this response. Therefore, in view of the cancellation of claims 4 and 10, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection of claims 4 and 10 is now moot and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that Jain does not anticipate the present claimed invention. As claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11 are dependent on claims 1 and 7, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also patentable for the same reasons as claims 1 and 7 discussed above. It is thus further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Claims 12, 13 and 14 have been added by this response. Claims 12 and 13 include a further "step of deleting said second metadata." This feature further defines an objective of the present claimed invention to minimize "metadata garbage" (page 7, lines 1-3) and to clean up a metadata database or essence databases (page 6, lines 14-15). Claim 14 provides a "means for adding third essence data to said new essence data." Adding a third essence allows the present claimed invention to "generate a complete significant essence" (page 5, lines 6-9), thus allowing a plurality of essences to be transferred into a new essence file (page 6, lines 9-12). As claims 12, 13 and 14 are dependent on claims 1 and 7, respectively, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also patentable for the same reasons as claims 1 and 7 discussed above.

The applicant respectfully submits, in view of the above arguments, that all the arguments made by the Examiner have been addressed and this rejection should be withdrawn. Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that the present claimed invention is patentable.

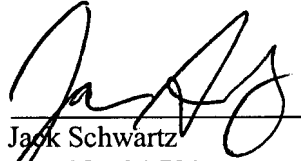No additional fee is believed due. However, if an additional fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

Hui Li et al.

By: Jack Schwartz
Reg. No. 34,721
Tel. No. (212) 971-0416

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Patent Operations
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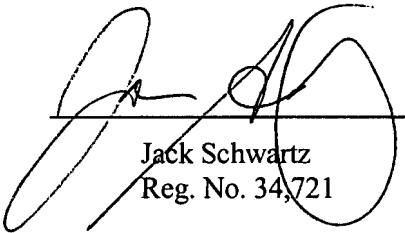Princeton, NJ 08543-5312
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Jack Schwartz
Reg. No. 34,721